

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please revise the claims, as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A computer method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
 - ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;and
 - iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.
 2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
~~a step of~~ updating the department store space-requirements database.
 3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein said ~~comprising a step of~~ updating the department store space-requirements database ~~so that it includes~~ comprises including the results of employing a data mining technique.
 4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a step of~~:

updating the department store space-availability database.

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5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein said ~~comprising a step of~~ updating the department store space-availability database ~~so that it includes~~ comprises including the effects of employing a data mining technique on the department store space-requirements database.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, further ~~comprising a step of~~ refining a an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-requirements database.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, further ~~comprising a step of~~ refining a an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-availability database.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further ~~comprising a step of~~ employing neural networks as the data mining technique.

9. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method ~~steps~~ for providing

B1
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an interactive department store space management database, the method comprising the steps of:

- i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
 - ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;
- and
- iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.

10. (Currently amended) A computer comprising:

- i) means for inputting a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
- ii) means for inputting a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;
- iii) means for employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases;

and

A1
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iv) means for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.

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11. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said neural networks classify features of said department store space-requirements and features of said department store space-availability.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution comprises determining whether a match exists between a classification of features of said department store space-requirement determined to be a problem and a classification of features of said department store space-availability.
